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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

23-51171

13 September 1973

The Honorable Richard Helms  
American Embassy  
Box 2000  
APO New York 09205

Dear Dick:

I thought I would bring you up to date on the question of legislation affecting the Agency in line with your cable request of 14 August 1973. Subsequent to your discussion with both Senator Stennis and Jim Woolsey, and subsequent to Larry Houston's letter to you of 15 August, Larry has had more detailed discussions with Senator Stennis and Jim Woolsey.

It has become clear that Senator Stennis feels that some type of pre-emptive hearings and legislation is essential. Senator Stennis also plans to handle this matter personally. He has asked us for names of potential witnesses. It seems to us that Senator Stennis wishes to protect the Agency and preserve its existing authorities. We feel our best course of action, therefore, is to work with Senator Stennis and Jim Woolsey, for whom we all have a high regard.

In order that our informal efforts with Senator Stennis not go down a road which would be inconsistent with White House thinking, we have prepared a package for Dr. Kissinger which discusses the problem and contains some legislative proposals which we feel might offer an eventual solution. I think the best way to assist you is to furnish this package, which is enclosed. I should think your reading of these various aspects would amply arm you to respond to Senator Stennis.

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OGC Has Reviewed

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After I have received a reaction from the White House, I will advise you further. If they agree with informal contact, I intend to make available to our committees the information in the four tabs attached to my memorandum to Dr. Kissinger.

I trust all of this is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



W. E. Colby  
Director

Enclosure

OGC:JSW:mks:jeb

Distribution:

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*Today they said to go ahead*  
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1	Mr. W. E. Colby	
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6		
ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
<b>Remarks:</b> 9/10/73  Per your request, there is attached a  proposed letter from you to Dick Helms.  <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 200px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  John S. Warner             </div>		
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Acting General Counsel 7D01 Hqs		8/31/73
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NOTE ATTACHED TO CABLE FROM MR. COLBY TO AMBASSADOR HELMS